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ABSTRACT

Accompanying a collection of 85 books for teenagers donated to local service organizations in Indiana, or donated in the name of such an organization to local libraries, this pamphlet offers suggestions to help the organizations engage adolescents with books and lists the paperback books given to the organizations. Suggestions in the pamphlet include: promoting reading with posters; using older children to encourage younger children to read; reading aloud to others; giving book talks; holding "read-ins"; and providing a storyteller. A "Reading Bill of Rights" concludes the pamphlet. The list of books is divided into sections of adventure/fantasy, biography, mystery/horror/science fiction, realistic fiction, short stories, and sports. (RS)

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ED 371 303

SUGGESTIONS TO HELP ENGAGE YOUNG ADOLESCENTS WITH BOOKS

Overview

The Middle Grades Reading Network in Indiana is an organization of professional reading specialists, interested educators, and concerned citizens that has been funded by the Eli Lilly Foundation to motivate adolescents to read.

One of its activities is the donation of appropriate book collections to Indiana service organizations--so far over 1500 such organizations have received these books. The pamphlet that follows is sent along with the book collection.

Middle Grades Reading Network

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Suggestions to Help Engage Young Adolescents With Books

Middle Grades Reading Network
University of Evansville 1800 Lincoln Avenue
Evansville, Indiana 47722

Suggestions to Help Engage Young Adolescents With Books

Congratulations! You have been chosen to receive a set of young adolescent books selected by Hoosier librarians and teachers who are knowledgeable about books at this level. The collection will help you encourage reading among your young people.

Indiana's record of S.A.T. scores and college attendance is low when compared to other states. And the main reason that students drop out of school is not drug usage, crime, or pregnancy: the main reason is that students cannot do the academic work.

According to the Center for the Study of Reading at the University of Illinois, 30 percent of our vocabulary is acquired through voluntary reading. In other words, the more you read, the better you are in reading.

Here is an example illustrating the decline of voluntary reading among our young people. Each year students have an opportunity to read from a list of twenty Young Hoosier Book Award Program books at each of three levels--primary, grades 4-6, and grades 6-8--and vote for their favorites. You would think that the votes cast would be nearly equal in number, inasmuch as there are about the same number of students at each level, but the voting in 1993 was as follows: primary children cast 40,037 votes, grades 4-6 children cast 15,778 votes, and grades 6-8 students cast **3,159** votes.

The young people in your program may not have access to new and interesting books in the same way that they are surrounded with television and other forms of interesting, but not necessarily helpful, media. This collection gives you an opportunity to provide a fortunate introduction to the realm of books for the youth that you serve.

The following are some suggestions that may assist you in this important work.

Place the books in an area that is accessible to the youth that you serve.

While the books need to be accessible, people who use the books may need to be reminded to return them for others to use.

Commercial posters that promote reading are available from the American Library Association and other sources. A poster contest can be held with prizes ranging from paperback books to coupons for French fries.

Older youths can be excellent reading role models for younger children. As the older children figure out ways to help market books, they have an opportunity to sell themselves on books.

You will especially like some of the books, and those books will be easy for you to promote.

Read your books

Young adolescents enjoy being read to, and they will benefit from your reading aloud, provided that you are enthusiastic about the book and that conditions are such that there is a good setting for the young people to listen as you read.

Give book talks to young people

You can promote a book without reading the entire book by telling about the setting, describing the characters, etc. The idea is to sell the book to the students so that they will want to read it.

Provide time for sustained silent reading

Cut out activities and noise and have everyone read a book.

Have youths read silently for a while, then have an activity, then read silently, etc. Prizes can be given, such as food coupons. Community volunteers can read aloud, and other similar entertainment can be provided between the silent reading sessions. Donations for pizza and drinks can be obtained from the community.

Young people can tell about their favorite books, all members of a group can read the same books and discuss them, and older youths can serve as book buddies to younger children.

It might be possible for a public library or school to provide a storyteller for the group.

It is conceivable that many of the youths do not have a public library card, so they can be helped to obtain one. Many young people do not have the opportunity to visit the public library and to learn about all the materials available. A visit could open up a lifetime of reading pleasure.

After using the books, you and/or the young people involved might wish to thank the organization that provided the books. Some suggestions include:

- *Write a thank-you note.*
- *Invite the donors of your books to talk about their favorite books as a young adolescent.*
- *Provide a program for the members of the organization in which you and/or young people describe the good things that happened as a result of the generous gift of books.*

READING BILL OF RIGHTS

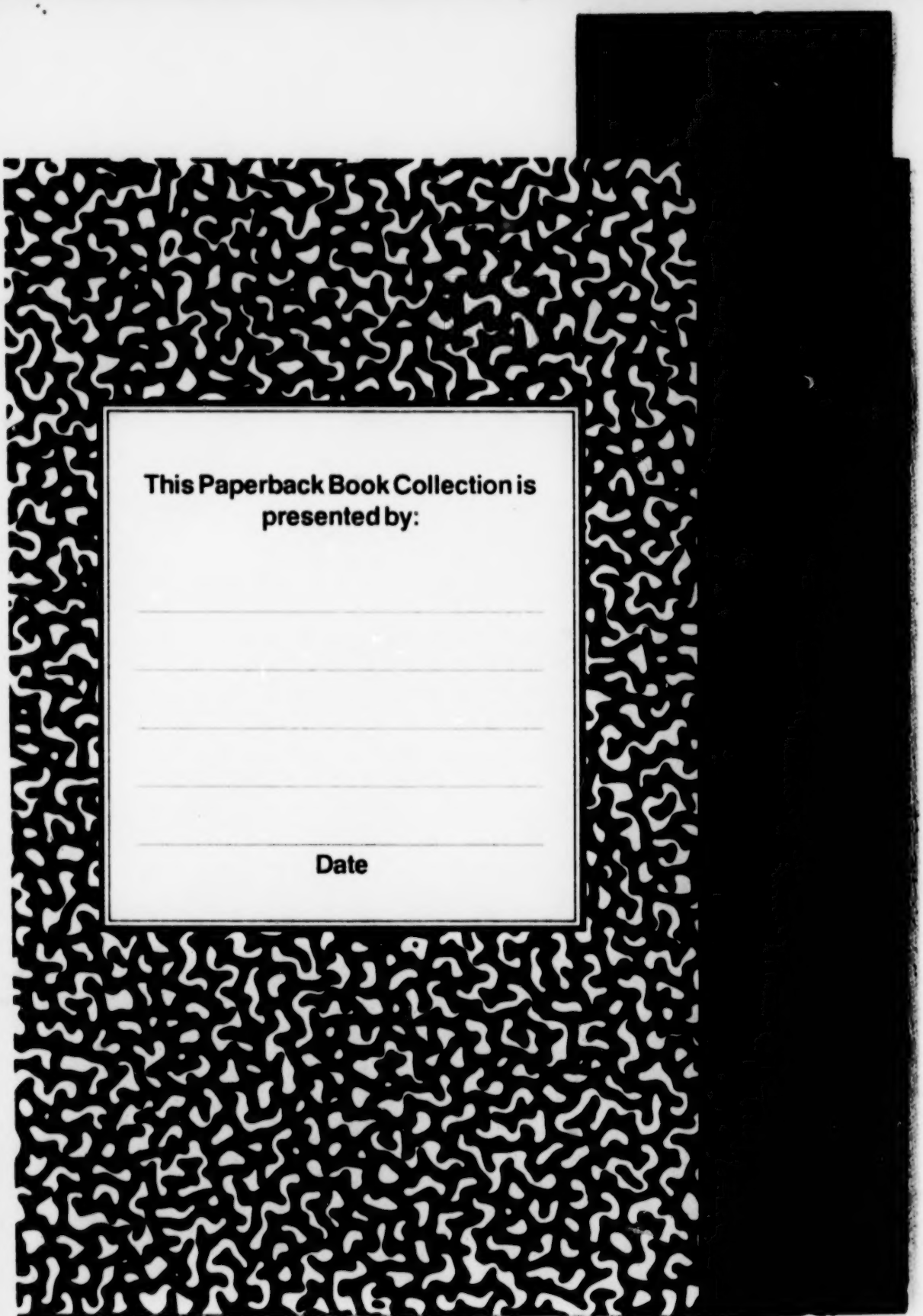
for Indiana's Young Adolescents

All young adolescents in Indiana need access to the kinds of reading opportunities that will allow them to grow up to be successful members of a literate community. It is the responsibility of the entire community to offer support for providing these opportunities. Our ultimate goal is the creation of **Communities of Readers** where each young adolescent will be able to fulfill his or her potential as a reader.

To that end, we believe that Indiana's young adolescents deserve:

- **Access to current, appealing, high-interest, and useful books and other reading materials in their classrooms, homes, public and school libraries, and other locations within the community.**
- **Schools that feature an environment where reading is valued, promoted, and encouraged.**
- **Dedicated time during the school day to read for a variety of purposes–for pleasure, information, and exploration.**
- **Teachers and school librarians who continually seek to renew their skills and excitement in sharing reading with young people through participation in diverse professional development activities.**
- **Public libraries that provide services specifically designed to engage young people's interest in reading.**
- **Community-based programs that encourage them in all aspects of their reading development.**
- **Opportunities for reading at home and support from schools, public libraries, and community agencies to families with young adolescents to encourage family reading activities.**
- **Communities of Readers in which all adults–in school, at home, and across the community–serve as role models and provide guidance to ensure that reading is a priority in young people's lives.**

Middle Grades Reading Network
University of Evansville
Funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc.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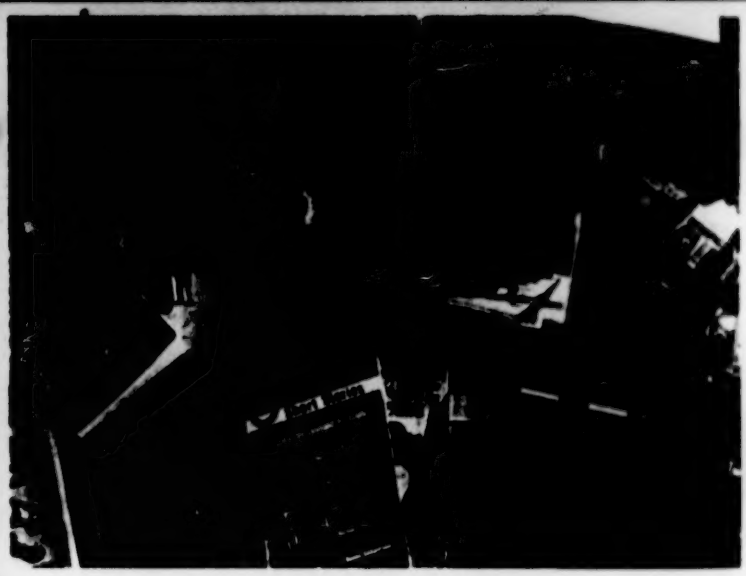

Middle Grades Reading Network

Paperback Book Collection for Middle Grades Youth

Adventure/Fantasy

Bearstone, *Will Hobbs*
The Brave, *Robert Lipsyte*
The Cay, *Theodore Taylor*
Children of the River, *Linda Crew*
Dawn Rider, *Jan Hudson*
Exploring the Titanic, *Robert Ballard*
The Face on the Milk Carton, *Caroline Cooney*
Flight #116 Is Down, *Caroline Cooney*
Ghost Cadet, *Elaine Alphin*
Hatchet, *Gary Paulsen*
The Haymeadow, *Gary Paulsen*
High Trail to Danger, *Joan Lowery Nixon*
Incident at Loring Groves, *Sonia Levitin*
Indian in the Cupboard, *Lynne Reid Banks*
Mariel of Redwall, *Brian Jacques*
The Mouse Rap, *Walter D. Myers*
The Mystery of the Cupboard, *Lynne Reid Banks*
Nightmare, *Willo Davis Roberts*
One More River to Cross, *Jim Haskins*
Redwall, *Brian Jacques*
Return of the Indian, *Lynne Reid Banks*
River, *Gary Paulsen*
Scorpions, *Walter Dean Myers*
Secret of the Indian, *Lynne Reid Banks*
Sniper, *Theodore Taylor*
Stinker from Space, *Pam Service*
Stone Fox, *John Gardiner*
The Tormentors, *Lynne Hall*
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, *Avi*
Weirdos of the Universe, Unite! *Pam Service*
Voyage of the Frog, *Gary Paulsen*
Woodsong, *Gary Paulsen*

Biography

Ryan White: My Own Story, *Ryan White, Ann Cunningham*

Mystery/Horror/Science Fiction

Are You in the House Alone? *Richard Peck*
Being of Two Minds, *Pam Service*
Caught in the Act, *Joan Lowery Nixon*
The Chilling Hour, *Colin McDonald*
A Deadly Game of Magic, *Joan Lowery Nixon*
Don't Look Behind You, *Lois Duncan*
Down a Dark Hall, *Lois Duncan*
The Duplicate, *William Sleator*
Eva, *Peter Dickinson*
Ghost Belonged to Me, *Richard Peck*
Ghost in the House, *Betty Ren Wright*
Girl in the Box, *Ouida Sebestyen*
Jurassic Park, *Michael Crichton*
Midnight Mystery, *Betty Ren Wright*
Spirit House, *William Sleator*
The Stalker, *Joan Lowery Nixon*
A Sudden Silence, *Eve Bunting*
The Twisted Window, *Lois Duncan*
Vision Quest, Pam Service
Wait Till Helen Comes, *Mary Downing Hahn*
Wolf Rider, *Avi*

Realistic Fiction

After the Rain, *Norma Fox Mazer*
Agony of Alice, *Phyllis Reynolds Naylor*
Arly, *Robert Peck*
Bingo Brown and the Language of Love, *Betsy Byars*
Bingo Brown, Gypsy Lover, *Betsy Byars*
Chemo Kid, *Robert Lipsyte*
Dear One, *Jacqueline Woodson*
A Family Apart, *Joan Lowery Nixon*
Father Figure, *Richard Peck*
A Formal Feeling, *Zibby O'Neal*
Izzy, Willy-Nilly, *Cynthia Voigt*
Monkey Island, *Paula Fox*
Nothing but the Truth, *Avi*
Orp, *Suzy Kline*
Please Remove Your Elbow from My Ear, *Martyn Godfrey*
Princess Ashley, *Richard Peck*
Run, Shelley, Run, *Gertrude Samuels*
Say Goodnight, Gracie, *Julie Deaver*
Shiloh, *Phyllis Reynolds Naylor*
Somewhere in the Darkness, *Walter Dean Myers*
Stepping on the Cracks, *Mary Downing Hahn*
Tom Loves Anna Loves Tom, *Bruce Clements*
Waiting for the Rain, *Sheila Gordon*
The Year Without Michael, *Susan Pfeffer*

Short Stories

Connections, *Donald Gallo*
Living up the Street, *Gary Soto*
Short Circuits, *Donald Gallo*
Sixteen: Short Stories, *Donald Gallo*
Two-Minute Mysteries, *Donald Sobol*
2041, *Jane Yolen*

Sports

Athletic Shorts, *Chris Crutcher*
Baseball in April, *Gary Soto*
Maniac Magee, *Jerry Spinelli*
Running Loose, *Chris Crutcher*
There's a Girl in My Hammerlock, *Jerry Spinelli*